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Rec'd: FEBRUARY 6, 1959

4:45 P.M.

Info R

FROM: BERLIN DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 673, FEBRUARY 6, 8 P.M.

File 2/9/59
Telegram to
Markushin

762.0221/2-659

LLR

SENT BONN 603, REPEATED INFORMATION DEPARTMENT 673, LONDON 124,
MOSCOW 205, PARIS 156, POLAD USAREUR 206.

PARIS FOR EMB, USRO, CINCEUR THURSTON AND WEST

REF OURTEL 597 TO BONN 667 TO DEPT

POLITICAL ADVISERS MET THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS TRUCK INCIDENT
AND AGREED ON US PROPOSAL TO RECOMMEND TO RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES
BONN THAT INSPECTION ISSUE BE TAKEN UP TRIPARTITELY IN MOSCOW
WITH SOV FONOFF. (SEE LAST PARA REFTEL.)

ALTHOUGH IT UNLIKELY SOVS WILL AGREE TO SETTLE ISSUE TO OUR
SATISFACTION, WE BELIEVE DEMARCHE IN MOSCOW MIGHT HAVE EFFECT
OF RESTRAINING RUSSIAN ATTEMPTS TO INTERFERE WITH OUR TRUCK TRAFFIC
DURING TIME ISSUE BEING DISCUSSED IN MOSCOW. IF MOSCOW
DEMARCHE AGREED UPON, WE WOULD PROPOSE INFORMING MARKUSHIN
AT ONCE THAT WE AGREE WITH HIM INSPECTION ISSUE WILL
HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED AT HIGHER LEVELS AND THAT MATTER WILL BE
TAKEN UP IN MOSCOW.

USCOB, BRITISH AND FRENCH COMMANDANTS CONCUR IN THIS PROPOSAL.

BRITISH POLAD EXPRESSED VIEW THAT, IF MOSCOW DEMARCHE MADE,
ISSUES INVOLVED ARE SO COMPLICATED IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY EVENTUALLY
TO RETURN NEGOTIATIONS TO BERLIN, WITH BERLIN NEGOTIATORS ACTING
AS REPRESENTATIVES THEIR MOSCOW PRINCIPLES.

BRITISH POLAD ALSO SUGGESTED THAT IF DEMARCHE MADE ALLIES SHOULD
BE PREPARED TO OFFER A CONCESSION: SPECIFICALLY, WHERE TRUCK

REB 24 FEB 1959

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-2- 673, FEBRUARY 6, 8 P.M., FROM BERLIN

TAILGATES HIGH AND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE INSIDE TRUCK FROM GROUND,
ALLIES SHOULD PERMIT RUSSIANS TO CLIMB UP ON TAILGATES TO LOOK
IN, BUT NOT TO ENTER. USPOLAD DISAGREED, ON GROUNDS THAT

- 1) A PRINCIPLE IS INVOLVED WHICH IS VITAL TO OUR ACCESS TO BERLIN.
ANY CONCESSION REPRESENTS SIGN OF WEAKNESS, AND THIS NO RPT NO TIME
TO SHOW WEAKNESS.
- 2) ONE CONCESSION ONLY LEADS TO ANOTHER DEMAND--TO WIT, WHEN
WE WERE DISPATCHING COVERED VEHICLES INSPECTION DISPUTE
CENTERED ONLY ON THEM; NOW THAT WE CONFINE OURSELVES TO VEHICLES
WHICH ARE AT LEAST PARTIALLY OPEN, SOVS NOW SAY VEHICLES NOT
'DISCOVERED ENOUGH.

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